GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5599
ANSWERED ON:16.05.2007
COAL WASHERIES
Singh Shri Uday

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to encourage setting up of coal washeries on Build-Own-Operate basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether coal which is presently supplied to various consumers by Coal India Ltd.(CIL) and its subsidiaries contain high percentage of ash; and

(d) if so, to what extent the setting up of coal washeries would help consumers in getting coal with less percentage of ash contents?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. Coal India Limited (CIL) has been encouraging Power Sector and other coal consumers and private entrepreneurs to set up coal washeries on Build-own- operate basis for supply of washed coal to the linked consumers. To encourage setting up coal washeries by consumers/private entrepreneurs, CIL has been providing land and other infrastructural facilities on lease/chargeable basis subject to its availability. The following washeries are under construction by the respective consumers with the support of infrastructural facilities from the coal companies:-

i) Kalinga Washery (11.0 million tonnes per annum) in Orissa on Build-own-Operate scheme for supply of washed coal to thermal power stations of APGENCO from Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.

ii) KDH Washery(3.50 million tonnes per annum) in Jharkhand on Build-own-Operate scheme for supply of washed coal to the thermal power stations of PSEB from Central Coalfields Ltd. CIL has also decided in principle to set up washeries with the State-of-the-art technologies on "Build and Operate" (BO) basis where Coal India Limited and its subsidiary companies will provide the capital funding and other infrastructure facilities. Further, it has been decided that all new opencast projects of more than 2.50 million tonnes capacity, which are not linked to pit-head power stations should be designed with an integrated washery.

(c) Of the total production of about 361 million tonnes per annum from CIL in 2006-07, about 8% is coking coal, 20% is superior grade non coking coal and about 72% is inferior grade non-coking coal having high ash percentage of about 40%.

(d) The purpose of washing coal is to improve the quality by reducing its ash content, removing extraneous materials and increasing the heat value. By setting up coal washeries, the consumers will be supplied with improved quality of coal with reduced ash content along with increased heat value. Coal can be washed upto the desired level of ash percentage of the consumer. However, the yield of washed coal is a reckoning factor of level of washing for such high ash coal.